



**COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN
MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 10, 2009
*Registrar of Voters Conference Room
435 Fiscal Drive, Santa Rosa CA 95403***

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Liz Acosta, Chris Allen, Mary Basham, Jan Kiely (Chair), Donna Roper (Officer at Large)

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Christina Brenner (Vice-Chair) (notified), Karen Famini (notified), Lisa Maldonado, Priscilla Vivio

STAFF PRESENT: Nadine Jaillet

GUESTS PRESENT: Robyn Bramhall, Previous CSW Commissioner; Rachael Cutcher, Constituent Relations Manager, Santa Rosa Junior College Foundation

I. CALL TO ORDER – INTRODUCTION OF COMMISSIONERS AND GUESTS:

Jan Kiely called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM.

II. CONSENT ITEMS:

On a motion by Roper and seconded by Acosta, the Agenda for September 10, 2009 was approved; and the August 13, 2009 Draft Commission Minutes were approved.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Robyn Bramhall, a previous CSW Chair and Commissioner, gave some history on her background with the Women's Philharmonic, the Santa Rosa Junior College Symphony, and her prior efforts on behalf of the Commission researching women composers and conductors for women's history month activities. Bramhall informed the Commission that JoAnn Falletta, one of the preeminent women conductors in the United States, will be guest Conductor for the Santa Rosa Junior College Symphony January 23, 24, and 25, 2010. Bramhall invited the Commission to show support for Conductor Falletta, commenting that women composers and conductors are still a rarity in this country, and appreciate being supported.

Rachael Cutcher, Constituent Relations Manager for the Santa Rosa Junior College Foundation, described the *Circle of Honor* Scholarship Program, the



Foundation, and explained the options that scholarship sponsors have. The Foundation is a separate 501C from the Santa Rosa Junior College. The Foundation stewards the funds and the Junior College office of scholarship applications can select recipients according to specific criteria given by the scholarship sponsor. Criteria can be based on several things including: GPA, financial need, if students are re-entry, age, employment, parents, type of study (for example women's studies, non-traditional careers). The applications screen students for criteria. Application process is completed in the Spring to offer awards for the Fall semester. The Foundation has an Endowment option, which once established, lasts into perpetuity. Four percent of base amount is available to students: a \$10,000 scholarship offers \$400 per year to students.

IV. APPOINTMENTS AND OPENINGS:

Kiely announced that the current vacancies are: none in the 1st District, two in the 2nd, one in the 3rd District, one in the 4th District, and two in the 5th District, totaling six openings.

Roper reported the Sonoma West Times ran a press release that staff had prepared advertising openings on the Commission, and as a result, Jan DeWald had expressed interest.

V. SUPERVISOR COMMUNICATION UPDATES:

There were no updates.

VI. OLD BUSINESS:

Work Plan Draft:

On a motion by Basham and seconded by Roper, the draft 2009 – 2011 Work Plan was approved. Kiely wishes to present the Work Plan at the October 6, 2009 Board of Supervisors meeting for approval. Roper would like the Commission to revisit the Work Plan each month.

WIN Fund:

Discussion of WIN fund monies and the *Circle of Honor* scholarship program occurred. Kiely asked how can the amount of the WIN fund be brought up to the minimum endowment amount of \$10,000? Cutcher said monies can be held as a 'fund in progress' until the minimum is met. On a motion by Roper and seconded by Basham, it was approved to use WIN fund monies for a *Circle of Honor* endowment scholarship program with the recipient criteria be re-entry student, female preferred. Roper will call the YWCA to find out the exact amount of the WIN fund.

Meeting with County Human Resources Management:

Kiely and Basham reported on their meeting with Human Resources Management: the Commission is a very small part of the Human Resources department's responsibility; the Commission budget will be kept, however there will be more county budget cuts next fiscal year; the Human Resources Director agreed the Senior Office Assistant can attend Commission meetings to take minutes.

VII. NEW BUSINESS:

Political Appointments Training Workshop for Women

Roper reviewed the performance of *California Women Lead* in the August 5, 2009 appointment training workshop. She expressed the \$500 package would be sufficient if *California Women Lead* was contracted with in the future. The Commission can provide its own mailing, public service announcements, and press releases to advertise the training. Junior Commissioners may volunteer to help. On a motion by Roper and seconded by Acosta a budget not to exceed \$1000 was allocated to sponsor a political appointment training workshop in 2010.

Sonoma State University Center for Community Engagement:

Roper will call Merith Weisman, contact person for Sonoma State University Center for Community Engagement, to discuss utilizing student volunteers on Commission projects.

Commission Meeting Schedule Review:

The Commission meeting schedule remained the same.

VIII. ACTIVITY REPORTS:

Junior Commission:

Basham reported there are 12 Junior Commission applicants this year, and she will be assisting with interviews on both days scheduled.

Women's History Month Coordinator

Basham would like to have one event per week, in various parts of the county, in March. Basham contacted Molly Maguire, National Women's History Project, and was referred to Rebecca Hollingsworth. Basham will ask Barbara Boxer to be an event speaker. Basham would like to have Gloria Steinem as speaker.

Community Issues Liaison & Coordinators:

◇ **ACCW (Association of California Commissions on Women) Liaison (Acosta):**

Acosta reported that there had been no action to report.

◇ **AAA (Area Agency on Aging Liaison) Liaison (Kiely):**

Kiely reported the AAA is focusing on Elder Abuse in their strategic plan for the coming year.

◇ **Career Technical Education and Non-Traditional Career Coordinator (Brenner):**

No report.

◇ **Domestic Violence Liaison (Roper):**

Roper will invite a Family Justice representative from the District Attorney's office to speak at the October Commission meeting.

◇ **Human Trafficking Liaison (Brenner):**

No report.

◇ **Legislation Coordinator (Vivio):**

No report.

- ◇ **Representation Coordinator (Roper):**
Discussed under item VII. New Business.

IX. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

Attendance Report Distribution:

Attendance report was distributed to Commissioners. Kiely is very concerned over commission meeting absences. The group discussed how important it is for Commissioners to notify the Chair or Vice-Chair if they are not going to attend a Commission meeting. Comment was made that important commission decisions were made earlier in the meeting, and it is important for all Commissioners be involved in these decisions.

Budget Report Distribution:

The budget report was distributed to Commissioners.

Staffing Report:

Kiely reported that Jaillet was authorized to attend Commission meetings to take minutes.

X. AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT COMMISSION MEETING:

1. Invite Merith Weisman to discuss possibility of utilizing Sonoma State University student volunteers.
2. Decide on the *Circle of Honor* scholarship name, and finalize the amount of the endowment agreement.
3. Family Justice Center representative under New Business.
4. Work plan finalized under Old Business.

XI. NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be on Thursday, October 8, 2009 at 6:00 PM.

XII. ADJOURNMENT:

Kiely adjourned the meeting at 7:43 PM.